

ORDINANCE NO. 2003-09-061

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON, AMENDING BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.80.020 REGARDING RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TOURISM COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Bellingham Municipal Code 3.08.010 sets forth certain requirements for membership on City boards and commissions; and,

WHEREAS, those qualifications include being a resident of the City of Bellingham for at least two (2) years prior to appointment to the board or commission; and,

WHEREAS, Bellingham Municipal Code 2.80.040 gives the Tourism Commission responsibility for providing recommendations regarding policies, programs and activities which enhance the tourism and visitor industry in the City and the surrounding area; and,

WHEREAS, since the Tourism Commission promotes tourism in and around Bellingham, the Tourism Commission's membership should not be limited to just City of Bellingham residents; and,

WHEREAS, allowing up to fifty percent (50%) of the Tourism Commission to be non-residents of the City of Bellingham will enhance the Tourism Commission's ability to discharge its responsibilities under the Bellingham Municipal Code and thereby benefit the City of Bellingham with increased tourism; and,

WHEREAS, amending Bellingham Municipal Code 2.80.020 as set forth below is in the best interests of the City of Bellingham;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1: Bellingham Municipal Code Section 2.80.020 is amended to read as follows:

2.80.020 - Membership Of Commission And Of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

A. The Commission shall consist of no more than 12 members to be appointed by the Mayor. Membership shall be representative of agencies directly involved in tourism and visitor and convention promotion and may include, but not be limited to, the following: The Bellingham/Whatcom County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Bellingham/Whatcom County Chamber of Commerce, Western Washington University, Bellingham/Whatcom County hotel and motel owners, Bellingham/Whatcom County restaurant owners, Port of Bellingham, the Bellingham City Council. In addition, representatives of the following City departments/divisions, or their mayorally-approved designees, shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Commission: the City of Bellingham Public Works Department, the City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Bellingham Planning and Community Development Department, Whatcom Museum of History and Art. Notwithstanding the other requirements of Bellingham Municipal Code 3.08.010, the Mayor may appoint up to fifty percent (50%) of the Tourism Commission's members from non-residents of the City of Bellingham; PROVIDED, that all members of the Tourism Commission shall be residents of Whatcom County.

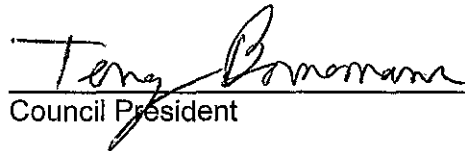
B. The Mayor shall appoint a subcommittee of the Commission whose members shall serve as the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee as described by RCW 67.28.1817. The subcommittee shall consist of at least five members and shall include:

1. At least two members who are representative of businesses required to collect the lodging tax;
2. At least two members who are persons involved in activities authorized to be funded by revenue from the lodging tax; and
3. An elected official of the City who shall serve as chair of the Committee.

Persons who are eligible for appointment under (1) of this subsection are not eligible for appointment under (2) of this subsection. Persons who are eligible for appointment under (2) of this subsection are not eligible for appointment under (1) of this subsection. The number of members who are representatives of business required to collect lodging tax shall equal the number of members who are involved in activities authorized to be funded by revenue received from the tax.

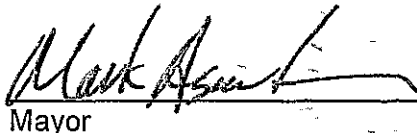
C. Organizations required to collect the lodging tax, organizations involved in activities authorized to be funded by revenue received from the lodging tax, and local agencies involved in tourism may submit recommendations for membership on the Commission and the subcommittee.

PASSED by the Council this 22nd day of September, 2003.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 2nd day of October 2003.




Mayor

Attest: 

Finance Director

Approved as to form:



Office of the City Attorney

Published: September 26, 2003